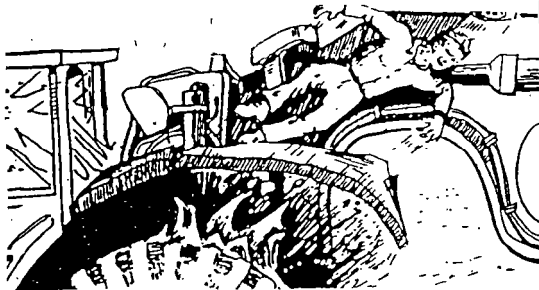
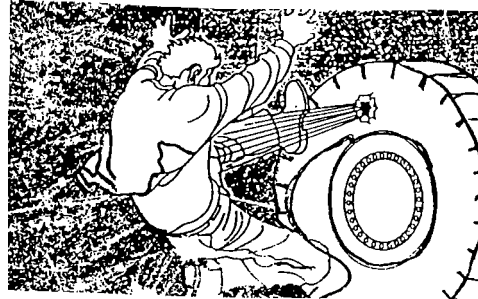


SPECIAL TIRE HAZARD ALERT

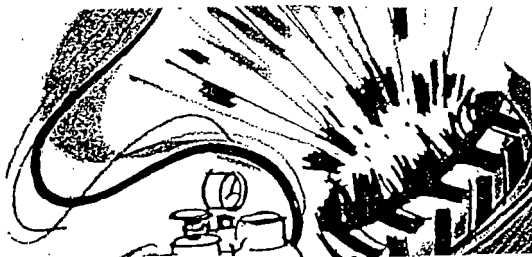
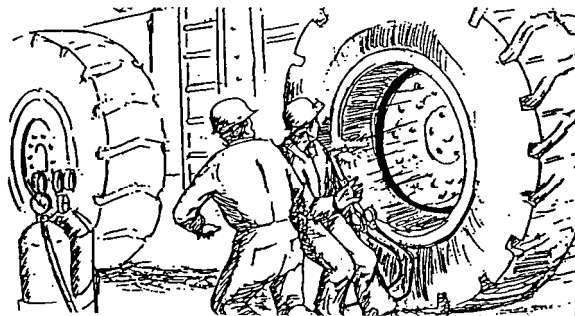
SINCE 1990 FOUR FATALITIES HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY EXPLODING TIRES ON MOBILE EQUIPMENT

A 49-YEAR OLD MAINTENANCE MAN WITH 22 YEARS MINING EXPERIENCE WAS FATALLY INJURED WHILE INFLATING A LOADER TIRE. THE VICTIM WAS BENDING OVER TO REMOVE THE AIR CONNECTION FROM THE STEM WHEN THE TIRE WALL EXPLODED, THROWING HIM ABOUT 10 FEET. THE TIRE WAS CRACKED BY WEATHERING WHICH ALLOWED MOISTURE TO CORRODE AND WEAKEN THE STEEL BELTING.



A 20-YEAR OLD CONTRACTOR MECHANIC WITH 3 WEEKS MINING EXPERIENCE WAS FATALLY INJURED WHILE LUBRICATING TRANSMISSION SHIFT CABLES. A REPAIRED SECTION OF THE TIRE FAILED. THE MECHANIC WAS THROWN 25 FEET BY THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION. THE BLOWOUT OCCURRED WHERE A 14" X 14" SECTION HAD BEEN REPLACED 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO THE ACCIDENT.

A 34-YEAR OLD SERVICE MECHANIC WITH 4 YEARS MINING EXPERIENCE WAS FATALLY INJURED WHILE REMOVING A TIRE FROM A FRONT-END LOADER. THE VICTIM WAS CUTTING LUG BOLTS WITH A TORCH AND THE TIRE HAD NOT BEEN DEFLATED. WHEN THE BOLTS HOLDING THE RIM TOGETHER WERE SEVERED, THE PIECES SEPARATED WITH EXPLOSIVE FORCE STRIKING THE VICTIM ON THE HEAD AND CHEST.



A 39-YEAR OLD MAINTENANCE MAN WITH 8 YEARS MINING EXPERIENCE WAS FATALLY INJURED WHEN HE USED A CUTTING TORCH TO REMOVE A BRAKE DRUM FROM A RIM. THE TIRE HAD NOT BEEN DEFLATED PRIOR TO THE ACCIDENT AND IT EXPLODED. THIS ACCIDENT ALSO SERIOUSLY INJURED TWO CO-WORKERS.

BEST PRACTICES:

***NEVER CUT OR WELD ON THE RIM OF AN INFLATED TIRE. EXCESSIVE HEAT CAN CAUSE TIRES TO EXPLODE.**

***ALWAYS DEFLATE TIRES, REMOVE THE VALVE CORE, AND INSURE THAT THE VALVE STEM IS CLEAR BEFORE ATTEMPTING ANY MAINTENANCE OR REPAIRS ON TIRES.**

***A STAND-OFF INFLATION DEVICE SHOULD BE USED WHILE INFLATING TIRES.**

***DETERIORATED AND DEFECTIVE TIRES OR RIMS SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM SERVICE.**